

HARTFORD INNOVATION HUB

The Hartford Innovation Hub, with a long history of innovation and a strong base of world leader corporations, the Hartford Hub encourages the growth of startups and small business with high-growth potential (also known as Stage II companies) by connecting them with space, talent, capital, education and a supportive entrepreneurial community. Administered by a partnership between LaunchScale and reSET, The Hartford Hub will build on and collaborate with programs already in progress in the local community.

Key Programs Under Construction:

- *Roadmaps* to guide the development of new resources and activities for the community. A dynamic and proud entrepreneurial community is an important asset for entrepreneurs, providing them with new ideas, expertise and peer support. The hub will engage in a three to four month process of identifying entrepreneurs to play leading roles building the Greater Hartford entrepreneurial community, and help identify the community's needs.
- *Monthly events*, featuring company founders speaking on topics demanded by the area's entrepreneurs. An important way to bring entrepreneurs, mentors and investors together, such events help foster meaningful relationships and provide education on different topics.
- *Flexible, collaboration-oriented work space*. The hub will build out and develop a co-working space for growth-oriented entrepreneurs and companies at 370 Asylum Street. In such a collaboration space, people and companies benefit from the cross-pollination of resources and ideas by working in close proximity to one another.
- *Social Enterprise*. Companies that seek to solve public challenges while making profit are a rapidly growing part of the U.S. economy. The Hartford Hub includes reSET, Connecticut's leading organization promoting and supporting social enterprise formation and growth, and will offer the following suite of social enterprise support programs:
 - *Social Enterprise Accelerator*. An immersive twelve week program providing comprehensive training, introductions, and mentorship to expedite company growth.
 - *Social Enterprise Challenge*. Increasing the number of high-potential companies is an important function of an innovation ecosystem. The SE Challenge will invite students and entrepreneurs to submit social enterprise business plans. The winning plans receive space, mentorship and other support to help scale their companies.
 - *Social Enterprise Design Lab*. This powerful workshop helps entrepreneurs identify products and services that both solve a social problem and turn a profit.

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